



News Release

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Remember DEET Over the Fourth!

From Dusk to Dawn, Put Your DEET on!

(Salt Lake City, UT) – For many Utahns, the Fourth of July holiday presents the perfect opportunity to enjoy outdoor activities such as camping, boating or picnics with the entire family. However, the risk of getting West Nile Virus (WNV) is increasing along with summer temperatures and the number of mosquitoes. This Fourth of July, remember to put mosquito repellent containing DEET into your vehicle, backpack or purse.

West Nile Virus has been detected much earlier this season in Utah than in seasons past, so people need to take the proper precautions. “The mosquito population is increasing ahead of schedule,” said Lisa Wyman, epidemiologist at the Utah Department of Health (UDOH). “We are concerned that people will become infected with WNV earlier this year.” Colorado has already reported a human case of WNV this season. Other neighboring states have also had early detection in animals.

The risk of serious illness from WNV increases with age, but there is no age at which there is no risk. During the 2005 season, 52 human cases of WNV were reported to public health; 22 of the cases were severe. These cases ranged in age from six to 86 years.

Local retailers have mosquito repellent with DEET available for purchase in anticipation of the mosquito season. There are convenient towelettes that are easy to carry and use, and many manufacturers have developed mosquito repellent that is odorless and non-sticky. The Centers for Disease Control has also approved repellent containing picaridin or oil of lemon eucalyptus for effective protection against WNV.

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So remember to take your mosquito repellent with DEET along with the family over the Fourth and use it on all family members over the age of two months. You can also consider a stroller netting for babies during outdoor activities. Put your DEET on from dusk until dawn, and for added protection wear long sleeves and pants. For more information visit the UDOH Web site at www.health.utah.gov/wnv.

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